

THE CATHOLIC MIND

Vol. XXXVII

APRIL 8, 1939

No. 871

THE NEW SPAIN Social Reconstruction

G. M. Godden

"I offer you victories of peace. Let no one interpret these words in the easy sense that comfortable and careless days lie ahead. We are going to be a people of re-builders."

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THE AMERICA PRESS

53 PARK PLACE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

THE CATHOLIC MIND, April 8, 1939. Volume XXXVII, No. 871. Published semi-monthly by The America Press, 53 Park Place, New York. Subscription postpaid United States, 5 cents a copy; yearly, \$1.00; foreign, \$1.25. Entered as second-class matter October 22, 1914, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 4, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on June 29, 1913. Trade-mark "Catholic Mind," Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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The New Spain

G. M. GODDEN

Reprinted from The Irish Rosary

"WE are going to be a people of re-builders," is the declaration of the new Nationalist Spain. That is an aim declared by General Franco himself, when speaking to a representative of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, U. S. A. "We are engaged in making a profound social revolution which draws its doctrines from the teachings of the Catholic Church. There will be fewer rich, but also fewer poor. The Spanish State in the future will be a real democracy, all of whose citizens will have a share in the Government according to their profession or special duties."—(*Osservatore Romano*, July 30, 1938.)

It will be of interest to see how far this "profound social revolution," proclaimed by General Franco, has been inaugurated during the twelve months now concluded.

What has been done for social reconstruction in Spain during 1938? The task is not only one of repairing the ravages of the Civil War. Destruction and demoralization set in before July, 1936. But the

destruction due to the war alone, as regards the Church, is, of course, enormous. Some 22,000 churches have been destroyed or totally plundered. In the one province of Huesca there were formerly 400 churches. When the Nationalist troops liberated the province they found only four churches intact. The number of priests and nuns who have been killed is now estimated to be over 8,000 (*The World Problem*, Rome, May, 1938, page 126).

Already the women's branches of Catholic Action in Spain have organized a great collection throughout the entire province of Navarre of gifts in metal and material for vestments. In the towns of Navarre "the women are working at making chasubles out of their wedding-dresses and the things they have received from their fathers, Manila shawls or silk from America, which they have inherited." Gifts of metal were made by Provincial Deputies, Courts of Justice, Banks, and industrial firms. The women of Navarre were able to help no less than fourteen ravaged dioceses; gifts included 183 chalices, 91 copes, 675 chasubles, 2,800 corporals, and so on (*Tablet*, December 3, 1938). Even the diocese of Madrid is organizing Centers for Worship, with a central Committee in Burgos, aided by inhabitants of Madrid who have escaped to the National zone. The Spanish Hierarchy has issued an appeal to the world for metal and ornaments for this primary work of Spanish reconstruction, an appeal which has had the blessing of the Holy Father.

And what about the repairing of a shortage of some 8,000—possibly more—priests? The Religious Orders, notably the Jesuits, are helping; and the war has proved to be a source of new vocations. Also the spectacle of atheist Marxism and Communism in unrestrained action, action resulting in unlimited murder, hideous mutilations, deliberate and fiendish tortures and the senseless destruction of historic and

beautiful buildings and of religious objects, and the obscene desecration repeated again and again of religious statues, has created a reaction and return of many to the Church. Late vocations for the priesthood are noticeable; and the Bishop of Madrid has lately opened a Seminary for these vocations (*Tablet*, December 16, 1938).

An incident at Toledo must bring facts home to many in Spain. In 1935 a "Seminary Week" was held in Toledo, under the presidency of Cardinal Goma. In July following the Cardinal sent the Vicar-General of the diocese to Toledo to work on the question of the Seminaries. The Civil War broke out; and the Vicar-General and eighty-four priests were shot. The Minister of Justice has already foreshadowed the signing of a Concordat between the Holy See and the National Government.

What is Nationalist Spain doing in regard to the social justice demanded by a Catholic State? Let us see what the past year has brought, month by month, of social reconstruction, even under the terrific strain of a Civil War. First of all, there came a stern call to "work and sacrifice" by the Chief of the New State. General Franco broadcast on the evening of New Year's Day, 1938:

I offer you victories of peace . . . let no one interpret these words in the easy sense that comfortable and careless days lie ahead. When the gun makes way for the plough there will be much work for everybody, long and wearying work, but behind which shines the destiny of the New Spain, whose glory and empire were not created in days of ease, but in days of work and sacrifices, when our leaders and thinkers worked in tense vigil and exemplary austerity.

While the grown men and women of Spain were thus being called to the joys of worth-while action the children of Spain were learning the joys of a Catholic feast-day. The Feast of the Epiphany is the day when Spanish children receive their presents; and on the sixth of January last, in all the towns in Nation-

alist Spain, brilliant cavalcades were held in the streets, headed by the Three Wise Men; and hundreds of thousands of toys were distributed to the children of the poor and of charitable institutions.

Later in the month we hear of housing developments and measures to aid small farmers. The Nationalist Labor Charter, which was published in March, inaugurated Family Allowances and ensured sufficient wages for the workers; but of what avail are wages and allowances if the home is not fit for healthy and happy family life? "The payment of decent wages, however just and essential, was deemed to be no solution of the labor problem without proper healthy homes for the workers' families, for the family life is the basis of a nation's life and strength." By the first week in January 116 houses, built by the Corporation of Seville, under its Economical Housing Scheme for the Workers, were completed. Already 500 houses for working-class families had been erected. An interesting feature of the new housing in Nationalist Spain is that the workers find their new houses distributed over the whole municipal area. This brings about contact between different social classes, causes neighborly good feeling and wipes out hard and fast class barriers.

Early in January the Agricultural Loans Office was able to announce that loans to *small farmers* already amounted to 2,500,000 pesetas, for aid in sowing and other farming outlay; and also that 1,800 petitions for reimbursable loans had been granted. How many small farmers in other countries might wish that they were under the Government of National Spain? At the end of the month a new sanatorium was opened at Toledo by General Martinez Anido, President of the Anti-Tuberculosis Associations.

February began with an official message to the people of Spain from the National Government, which "re-affirmed the religious feeling and faith peculiar to

the Spanish people, and announced the revision of all anti-religious legislation." Freedom of conscience will be an inalienable right of the people of the New Spain. During the month a new district for working-class houses was inaugurated in Malaga; and plans were completed for a complete housing scheme for workers' dwellings in Seville, to house 7,500 people, and to include a church and a sports ground. The National Government believes in the *mens sana in corpore sano*. In a speech at the closing session of the Architects' Assembly, held at Burgos, the Head of the Official Commission, Don Muguruza, reiterated the statement that "the family is to be the guiding idea in building the homes of the New Spain . . . we shall build homes, not merely buildings." Don Muguruza added that the Marxists and Communists "have a material conception of architecture, but ours is spiritual."

A further essential social service was begun at the close of the month, that of new water mains for Seville, designed to supply 50,000 cubic meters of water to the city. The *Gazette de Lausanne* of February 7 gave a vivid summary of the work proceeding for the renaissance of Spain during the preoccupations and demands of the war: "Not content with repairing the ravages of war and restoring public services in the liberated areas, the National Authorities are taking care to develop and improve their pre-war administration. Thus, as soon as the Asturian coal mines were recovered their output was increased to such an extent that it has since allowed of the export of coal. The repair of the railway lines destroyed by the Reds in their retreat has had as a corollary the electrification of them . . . barely four months after the fall of Santander the Minister of the Interior, General Valdes, has been to that Province to inaugurate the reclamation of the fens near the port of Santona."

The Decree establishing the rights and duties of labor, promulgated on March 9, would require an arti-

cle to itself. The month brought striking evidence of the restoration of Catholic ceremonies in the New Spain. Early in the month preparations were being pushed forward for the world-famous processions in Holy Week in Seville; statues and ornaments destroyed by the "Republicans" (so-called) were replaced; and the Sevillian artist, C. Lastrucci, was engaged on a statue of the "Christ of a Happy Death"—symbol of the indestructible faith of the Spanish people, a faith which, in thousands of martyrdoms, has triumphed over the onslaught of Marxism and Communism. The people of Spain recognize from the depths of their hearts that the Communist regime could, and did, torture and kill their bodies, but could not touch their souls.

In March, also, the Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas was observed throughout Nationalist Spain by celebrations organized by the Universities. Members of the Youth Organizations attended Mass, and received Holy Communion; and the observance of the Feast included sports gatherings. And at Bilbao a week of prayer, reparation for the sacrileges committed by the Communists, and penance was observed, hundreds attending the ceremonies. The Corporation of Logroño decided to rebuild all the convents in the town which had been destroyed by the "Republicans."

Not only are the needs of the liberated areas met in New Spain. Provision is also made for the districts not yet set free from the Communist and Marxist yoke. Early in March the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Señor Martin, announced that the Nationalist Government had set aside 400,000,000 quintals of wheat to provide for the needs of the territory not yet liberated by the Nationalist armies. Señor Martin added that the Government might have sold this wheat abroad for foreign currency, but preferred to keep it in order to supply the needs of the Provinces of "Republican" Spain, as they are liberated. How these needs are

met was shown by the Social Aid Workers, who, operating from Saragossa, distributed 2,000 rations daily to the inhabitants of Alcañiz, and provided sufficient food for the needs of all the villages that had been recently liberated by the Nationalists. And in March new textile factories were begun at Valladolid.

In April a striking achievement was announced in the new attack upon tuberculosis. The Minister of Public Order of the Nationalist Government was able to state, after opening the new Sanatorium of Saint Teresa at Avila, that fourteen new sanatoria had already been opened. An indication of what the New Spain will do for the children of Spain was seen at Huelva, early in April. Here work was begun on a children's recreation ground, designed to include a large pavilion with a hall and library, a sports field, a gymnasium, a swimming-pool, shower-baths, and facilities for sun-bathing. Easter brought a notable demonstration of the faith of the children and youth of Spain when 25,000 boys and youths, of three sections of the Phalanx, made their Easter duties at Seville.

Seville was prominent again, in May, for the activity of the Social Services in the city. The City Council approved a plan for the building of fifteen new schools for children, at a cost of 7,000,000 pesetas. Portugalete and Abandiano were also chosen as the sites for two magnificent homes for children whose parents had been assassinated by the Marxists and Communists. And, in May, yet another sanatorium was opened for the treatment of tuberculosis. As regards the progress in agriculture, it was announced that the campaign for the cultivation and commercializing of flax had already been begun in the provinces of Burgos, Corunna, Leon, Palencia, Viscaya, and Guipuzcoa. The progress made in heavy industry was indicated by the output of steel in the Biscay factories; under the "Republican" regime this was, on

an average, 10,000 tons per month; under the Nationalist Government the yield, in April, was reputed as 32,000 tons. The month concluded with national celebrations in honor of the Feast of Saint Ferdinand.

We have seen something of the organized activities of the Nationalist administration for constructive work, during the first six months of last year, in the New Spain. The urgent demands of a civil war have not hindered the Government of New Spain from developing housing schemes which take the well-being of the worker's family as the basic unit; from building sanatoria; from providing schools, and recreation facilities, for the children; from increasing wages, and creating family allowances. But it may be said: What of the daily life of the people? Have the people of Nationalist Spain been living their lives, day by day, as a peaceable and happy people? Is their day's work and play "a day, in short," to quote an admirable and all-comprehensive phrase, "such as any honest Christian man or woman could wish for"?

Visitors to Nationalist Spain, last year, have seen for themselves the lives of the serene and placid inhabitants; they have seen the resurrection of that "eternal Spain, hard-working, simple-living, and God-fearing," which has been rescued from the moral and material destruction with which the nation was threatened. The churches were restored to the service of God; and it was no longer a matter for capital punishment to be seen wearing a crucifix or a medal of Our Lady. The markets were full of meat, fish, coffee, cocoa, sugar, butter, wine, and all kinds of fruit and vegetables, at prices kept, by the Nationalist Home Office, at pre-war levels. This plenitude of good food had been brought about by thrift, economy, hard work, organization and a horror of waste.

The day's work began, a time-honored custom in Spain, with having one's boots cleaned; smartly

cleaned shoes are no bad indication of self-respect in the wearer,—and those who respect themselves respect others. The factory workers were experiencing better conditions of work and pay,—the signs of a coming regime of Christian social justice. Banks were active, with a system of easy credits. "There is no hour in the time-table of National Spain that is wasted,"—and therefore National Spain is happy. When night came, sleep was no longer broken with the sounds of the volleys of those nocturnal execution squads which were an integral part of life under the Red rule of the so-called "Republican" Government.

Meanwhile, month by month, public works were being pressed forward. In June of last year estimates were approved for a new College of Architecture in Seville; and for a new Santa Marina school of modern design and equipped with dining-rooms and shower-baths. And, in Seville, Cardinal Sejura blessed the land on which sixty new houses were to be built for disabled workers. A new water supply system was approved for the city of Bilbao. Reclaimed land extending to 7,410 acres was solemnly blessed by Cardinal Sejura at the close of the month; the monthly wage bill for the workers on this reclaimed land reached 1,000,000 pesetas.

In July a law was promulgated making the Family Wage compulsory, of which the preamble stated: "It being the watchword of the movement to exalt and strengthen the family ideal, a Family Subsidy Scheme, as promised in the Labor Charter, is hereby introduced. This subsidy is of a compulsory character, and will be paid in proportion to the number of children."

The well-being of the worker in the factory is safeguarded, no less than the well-being of the workers' homes. In July came news of a Decree compelling all firms to have proper dining-rooms for their staffs. Also the workers are to be given two hours for their mid-day dinner. The dining-rooms are to be clean and

hygienic; they will be subject to State inspection, and in some cases they will be portable. Firms with over fifty workers will be obliged to provide food for them, at economic rates.

The productiveness of industry under good conditions is eloquently attested by the figures of iron ore production in the Biscay Province. When the Province was rescued by the Nationalists (July, 1937), the production was 20,721 tons. By April, 1938, it was 168,690 tons; in other words, production increased *eightfold*. And this production, during the war, was actually higher than the pre-war figures. The Bilbao iron exports also rose from 84,449 tons in 1935 to 108,282 tons in April, 1938; of the latter figure, 31,089 tons came to Great Britain and *only* 4,949 went to Germany.

The problem of the cultivation of land in the liberated areas has been met by the excellent work of the "Agricultural Recuperation Service." There are many countries, not suffering from civil war, that would benefit today by "agricultural recuperation." Nationalist Spain sees to it that agricultural engineers put under cultivation estates the owners of which are not on the spot. The freed lands are put under rapid cropping. Harvesting is organized. All abandoned agricultural property is safeguarded, and collected. Normal cultivation will be instituted, and certain agricultural work will be insisted on.

Spanish cultivation, we are told, has always suffered from lack of cash circulation among the farmers, due to their own want of capital. Agricultural loans are therefore a matter of great importance in the New Spain. A Nationalist Decree, beginning an attack on this problem, was issued as far back as September, 1936; that is, within a few weeks of the raising of the Nationalist standards on the battle fronts. This initial Decree was followed by others. Public granaries were set up. Declaration IX of the Nationalist Labor

Charter emphasized the urgency of developing and upholding the position of the small farmer.

In July last a Decree authorized loans on the security of standing crops; to be followed by the Decree of July 18, 1938, granting 20,000,000 pesetas from the National Wheat Service as a basis for the granting of agricultural loans. *The National Wheat Service was enabled to do this with the credit-balance as a result of its first year's work.* The Nationalist agricultural loan system is characterized by the ease with which grants are made in relation to security offered, and rapidity of execution. We repeat—have not countries at peace in Europe, has not America, something to learn from the achievements in production in Nationalist Spain during a fierce and prolonged civil war?

These achievements, moreover, have a striking moral value: "The agricultural loan system also clearly shows the special care in National Spain to restore, and bring into the healthy body politic of the country, the freed areas which have been nearly ruined by the anarchy and disorder of the Marxist zone. . . . It is greatly to the national interest to absorb and normalize the life of the devastated regions with the utmost rapidity." The success of this policy of restoration, already in action, is eloquent witness of the quality of the administrators of New Spain; and is surely "a happy augury for the future of that country under more enlightened rulers than Spain has ever experienced in modern times" (*Spain*, August 23, 1938).

It is interesting to note that, in September, 1938, the important cattle fair of Saria was so well attended that it was considered to reflect the prosperity of the farmers in that cattle-breeding center. Another indication of Nationalist enterprise in agriculture is the decision, announced in September last, to promote tobacco cultivation on a large scale in the Asturias. Yet another proof of the excellence of Nationalist agri-

culture is the magnificent report, issued in October last, of the wheat harvest in Nationalist Spain, which was estimated as sufficient to supply the requirements of Nationalist Spain without restrictions, and to almost cover the shortage in "Republican" Spain, until this year's crop is harvested.

In October the Minister of Social Action delivered a memorable speech concerning the law of the "Family Wage." The Minister pointed out that the Nationalist law of the "Family Subsidy" has a unique social significance, in that it seeks to restore the woman to her home, and to render creches unnecessary. Nationalist Spain believes that there is no better place for looking after children than the home; and Nationalist doctrine on this point is to be spread throughout Spain.

In October, also, decrees were published improving the position of workmen in regard to accidents. Injured workmen, or their families, were safeguarded against negligence or bad faith; and a list was published of several large fines which have been imposed on firms for non-compliance with the laws relating to industrial accidents. In this month, also, an announcement was made of the magnificent work already done for the sufferers from tuberculosis. At the opening of a new Sanatorium, after Mass had been celebrated and the building solemnly blessed, the President of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association was able to announce that in ten months no less than forty sanatoria had been opened.

We have seen something of the success of the Nationalist administration in the development of agriculture in the Nationalist Provinces and areas. But the growing of supplies of corn is not the only necessity of a sound agricultural policy, as envisaged by the Nationalist leaders. The peasant must receive a decent return for his wheat, but the price of bread must not be raised. How is this circle to be squared?

The Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Don Dionisio Martin, a realist and the son of peasant parents, was able to show that, under his administration, the price of bread had remained stationary; and "both peasant and consumer were content." This has been achieved by working on all the factors concerned, from sowing to baking. Two factors fix the price: the work done and the cost of living. Surplus profit is not allowed from speculation or stocking, but from improvements in the undertaking. Owing to complete control of the product "in process of transformation" — by baking—and the abolition of speculation, *the price of wheat has gone up without bringing, as a result, any rise in the price of bread.* The National Wheat Service is a buyer and seller of wheat. The amount produced is under control. Spanish farmers do not grudge their praise for this experiment in Corporation.

In the New Spain work has been raised to its proper plane of a national service. The principle that the family is the basis of a nation's life and strength demands the provision of sufficient wages to meet the requirements of Christian social justice, and proper healthy homes for the workers' families. In two years the one city of Seville has built over 1,000 workers' homes, homes that are modern, bright and clean. The work of the Housing Institute is spreading throughout Spain. Rural dwellings are now placed under Provincial Housing Inspectors, who keep a sharp eye on sanitary conditions and general habitableness. Long neglect of these conditions makes the task of the Nationalist Government in this respect particularly arduous.

The Health Department regulations stress, repeatedly, that "rural dwellings may not be an exception to hygienic regulations." Special attention is being paid to the accommodation for farm-workers. Employers have been ordered to fulfil their legal obligations regarding the housing of farm laborers; and the

proper conditions in which rural dwellings must be maintained have been outlined. These conditions *must* be adequate for "the demands of morality and hygiene." The adoption of the new measures will produce a revolution in the housing conditions in the rural areas of New Spain.

Finally, the achievements in reconstruction and progress of the Nationalist regime, last year, included a new Statute of Secondary Education, promulgated on September 20, 1938. The whole status of masters in the secondary schools was raised; and they were called upon to qualify in teaching, rather than become "mere controllers of examinations." Religion is to be taught in yearly courses ranging from the Catechism to Apologetics, and comprising studies of the Gospels and the History of the Church, as well as moral and liturgical studies.

The study and history of philosophy is also in the curriculum. Classics are given their proper place in accordance with the conviction that "a methodical study of the classical languages is unrivalled as a means of mental training." In the study of the History and Geography of Spain, and of the world, emphasis will be laid on the genius of the Spanish race, "which was, and is still, the defender and missionary of true civilization, based upon Christianity." (*Preamble of the statute.*) Due recognition is ensured of the language and the literature of the Spanish nation. To quote the *Preamble* again: "The aim of the legislators is to ensure that the National Renaissance shall not be a mere passing exaltation, but a permanent gain to be handed down to future generations."

The record of the year 1938 for Nationalist Spain, in the domains of Christian social justice and Christian culture, gives every promise that the New Spain will be a permanent gain to the world.

Spain's New Ruler

SEÑOR HIDALGO

Señor Hidalgo, who was at one time Minister of War in the Republican Government, has written this study as a rejoinder to an article on General Franco by Señor Chavez Nogales, in the January issue of the Nineteenth Century. Reprinted from The Tablet (London).

GENERAL FRANCO was under my orders for the ten months during which I was Minister of War of the Spanish Republic. In company with him I inspected military establishments. I selected him to accompany me in the military maneuvers in the Mountains of Leon, and I appointed him to advise me and help me when the Red Revolt in Asturias broke out in October, 1934. Before promoting him to the rank of General of Division, at that time the highest military rank, I devoted some close study to his life, his military deeds and record, comparing him with the other generals in the Army.

Franco is the least ambitious of men, so much so that this lack of ambition may be a defect for the future of Spain. His whole life bears witness to this, he has never asked aught than to be in the position of the greatest risk, this is testified by his military record; he never had recourse to intrigue or begging; it is not he who has risen, but his superiors who promoted him in view of his extraordinary merits. Later it was the Army which raised him to the position which he now occupies, and the Spanish People who confirmed him in it, convinced that it was his due; it was never his ambition to govern the nation, nor to reach this situation by recourse to arms.

Franco has not turned the counter-revolutionary movement into an international anti-democratic cru-

sade. Rather, when he saw that the so-called Republican Government was supported by an International Brigade, and that the greater part of their armaments came from abroad, he also sought help from abroad.

Peace is Franco's desire; war he detests, because he knows it so well; but he was called upon to liberate his country from those who had brought it to spiritual and material ruin, and he would not desist from the war until his end had been achieved.

He inscribed in his program the words "No Spaniard without a hearth, without a fire and without bread," which furnishes the best proof that he is not dominated by a military bias. He is solely dominated now, as always, by his undying love for Spain.

What has he done all his life long but love Spain and serve her? His every deed demonstrates this. Such is his conception of patriotism that this love of his country is the one absorbing and absolute fact amid all his worries; to it he has subordinated family, friendships, glory, power, ambition, wealth and honors. This love makes him desire to save his country at a time when in the view of the greater part of his fellow-citizens as in his own such a salvation was necessary.

For ten months General Franco was my subordinate when I was Minister of War. I devoted much attention to studying this man and getting to know him. I was astounded at his eminent qualities, at his store of knowledge, at his brilliant military record, at his neatness, his deliberation and his capacity for work, and above all at his loyalty, not merely to persons, but to the Republic.

Franco accepted the posts which were given to him. In those which were not worthy of him he gave his services with the same faith and enthusiasm as in those which were higher. He became a Brigadier General on January 31, 1926. On January 28, 1933, a decree of Azaña, then Minister of War under the Re-

public, annulled that promotion, which had been earned by service in the field, and in accordance with every legal formality. His seniority was taken away, and he was reduced to being the most junior of all Brigadier Generals. Franco made no protest or complaint, nor did he intrigue or comment upon the matter. He continued to give the same loyal service to the Republic as he had to the Monarchy.

He had the most brilliant military record of all the Generals, his promotion was so well merited that no one could have any doubts on the point.

He became Commander of a Brigade in Galicia, Military Governor of the Balearic Islands, a member of the War Office Staff, when I was Minister, Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Africa, Chief of the General Staff, and finally, Military Governor of the Canary Islands. In all these posts, whatever the Government, he gave loyal service to the Republic.

The spiritual meaning of the word Empire in Franco's mind is bereft of all idea of conquest by force of arms. He wishes to revive Spain, in order that she may once again be respected and admired, not by force of arms and at the cost of others, but in virtue of a vast increase in her spiritual prestige, by exploiting her natural wealth and intensifying her economic development, so that she occupies a place commensurate with her history and her geographical position.

I am not acquainted with General Franco's thought on such a delicate question as Religion. But since I know that he has a deep religious faith, and is a fervent Catholic, I feel sure that he will always respect the Commandments and the doctrines of the Church, and the Encyclicals of the Pope, and that as a calm, humane and prudent man he will not follow contrary doctrines. That spiritual balance will induce in him respect for the Catholic Church as the Faith of the vast majority of Spaniards, and respect and tolerance for other religions.

I would like to state that there is no justification for the insinuation that Franco dislikes the French. Franco is a great admirer of the French Army, and of all the glories of France. He always maintained close contact with the French officers in Morocco, and like every great colonial soldier he was a fervent admirer of Lyautey, who in his turn did not overlook the extraordinary gift of Spain's future Leader. Franco was decorated with the French *médaille militaire*. He wears the ribbon of the Legion of Honor, pinned on his chest by France's Minister of War, André Maginot. Franco attended the courses for Colonels and Generals at the Military Academy of Versailles, and he has expressed countless times, both orally and in writing, both before the National Rising and since, his love for France and her Army.

In order to understand how scrupulous Franco is in respecting national sovereignty, it is only necessary to read the order of the day which he issued on the morrow of the proclamation of the Republic. He reminds the cadets, that "Discipline must cooperate so that peace may reign, and so that the nation may be guided through its natural legal channels," and saying that "every view and ideology must be sacrificed for the good of the Nation and the tranquillity of the Fatherland."

When he learned of the suppression of the Academia General Militar, Franco recommended Discipline as always, in a speech which has become famous. He told the cadets "You must be paladins of loyalty, of chivalry, of discipline, of obedience to orders and of the spirit of sacrifice for the Nation." He singled out of all the virtues which a good soldier should have, for special praise, that of discipline, "that noble virtue, indispensable for the life of Armies, which you must guard as the most precious of your treasures."

It is public knowledge that Franco respected Azaña's order without a murmur, and when some

months later he was named to be in command of the Brigade of Galicia, he went on serving the Republic, with exemplary fidelity to duty.

When the results of the 1936 elections became known, the agitation of Left Wing Extremists all over Spain began. Franco did not rebel, he merely carried out his orders.

He was named Military Governor of the Canary Islands, leaving immediately to take possession of his post.

Not Franco, but the Army, organized the revolt. Franco was required, and refused, to agree. Remembering discipline, he sought means to avoid revolt, by informing the Government of the trouble, so that they could put it right. He brought to the notice of his superior, the Minister of War, the uneasiness which had taken possession of the Army, on account of so much injustice and arbitrariness. On June 23, 1936, he wrote a letter to the Minister of War, in which he gave a clear exposé of the position.

The Minister of War took absolutely no notice of his subordinate's letter, and the outrages went on increasing. In view of the Government's blindness Franco had no more choice, the only way out lay in revolt, otherwise the Army would have risen without him. After that unacknowledged letter with negative results, Franco became a rebel.

I remember an episode in the last days of 1934 when I was no longer Minister of War. General Franco and Señor Jose Maria Gaston y Pujadas had come to dine at my house. After dinner Franco was looking at a picture on the wall of General Prim, one of the organizers of the Revolution of 1868, which drove Isabella II from the Throne of Spain.

"Well, General," I said to him, "does he not seem to you to be one of the most interesting figures of Spanish History? I am a great admirer of Prim."

"I believe it and I can understand it," replied the

General, "but I do not share your view. You like Prim because he was brave and because he was a politician. I cannot admire him, because, in spite of his gallantry, he lacked the virtue which is the basis and cornerstone of military life: the spirit of discipline."

When Peace comes, if another man or other men were necessary to consolidate it, for the benefit and prosperity of the country, Franco would hasten to give way to them, because he seeks nothing else than the peace and prosperity of Spain.

He feels no giddiness on the pinnacle where Fate has placed him. On the contrary his figure has grown in stature, because one of his most treasured virtues has grown enormously: his deliberation.

Today there must be only one ideal: Spain; and today, Spain is Franco.

This is the man who, according to the great majority of Spaniards, high and low, rich and poor, Republicans and Monarchists, Fascists and Democrats, is . . . a man, nothing less than a great man.

Radio Flash!

(N. B. C. Networks; Friday morning, March 10.)

"Pope Pius XII, in an interview with Cardinal Dougherty this morning, blessed the cause for beatification of Mother Seton."

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